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ESTABLISHED 1894

THE DILLON HERALD, DILLON, SOUTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MORNING, APRIL 14, 1921.

VOL. 21. NO. 31

PHONE COMPANY STRIKES SNAG IN NORTH CAROLINA

Commissioner Maxwell Asks Stumping Questions.

Pee Dee Advocate.

After the Bell telephone company's attorneys went to Columbia and got permission from the S. C. railroad commission to raise their rates in South Carolina, discontinue out-of-town service, etc., they moved over to Raleigh to get permission from the N. C. state corporation commission to do the same thing in North Carolina. They have not yet succeeded, however. Corporation Commissioner A. J. Maxwell—who is a brother of J. B. Maxwell of Bennettsville—asks questions which they could not answer, and they had to stop appeal and go off after the required information. The following is from the Charlotte Observer:

Raleigh, March 31—The Southern Bell Telephone company's fight for higher exchange rates in North Carolina furnished a thrilling finale to spectators early this afternoon, when Commissioner Maxwell, something of an expert himself, clashed with Vice President Hoxsey, star witness of the company, and demanded figures to show the apportionment of long-distance revenue between the American Telephone and Telegraph company, parent corporation and the Bell.

The case went to the commission without argument upon the agreement reached yesterday afternoon. Mr. Hoxsey resumed the witness stand this morning and underwent cross-examination by John W. Hinsdale, representing the city of Raleigh, and J. A. Bell, representing the city of Charlotte for four hours before Commissioner Maxwell came to bat.

Prior to the Maxwell fusillade of searching questions, the commission had lent only orthodox ears to the hearing and Mr. Hoxsey, the financial wizard of the Bell, had been swimming along and having barrels of fun with the municipal lawyers, who were against his company. The only ripple on an otherwise placid performance today was the cross inquiry which developed that the company doesn't enjoy the good will of every newspaper in which it advertises particularly the New York World and the morning paper here. Each have been crusading a bit on the increase fight.

Mr. Maxwell matched wits with Mr. Hoxsey in a manner so gentle that no one for the moment dreamed that he was making a dent in the plea for higher rates all the lawyers had overlooked.

Five of them have been battling all the week with Mr. Hoxsey and other officials of the company but the best they have been able to draw from any witness was the old, old story of the four and a half per cent agreement. Attorney Bell has, in a degree, paved the way for the Maxwell assault. For an hour this morning he parried with Mr. Hoxsey over the "good business" of main taining unprofitable exchanges at the expense of more profitable ones. It was patent that the company would fall as a public servant to do otherwise, but the parrying planted the germ for growing a more dangerous plant, and Mr. Maxwell nurtured it to full bloom and a promising harvest.

"How are the profits of the American Telephone and Telegraph company divided with the Bell Telephone system in North Carolina?" Mr. Maxwell asked Mr. Hoxsey.

Hoxsey looked surprised. He ran his eye up and down the bench which held the members of the commission and turned it to his attorneys in the bar. There was no visible encouragement anywhere.

"I am unable to say," Hoxsey responded, admitting that for the first time he was stumped.

"You have insisted," continued Commissioner Maxwell, "that we ought to take into consideration the profits of the Southern Bell, as a whole in passing upon rates for this state and not the profits of the paying exchanges. It appears to me, then, that the commission ought to take into consideration the profits of the parent company, and its subsidiaries in view of the fact that it derives revenue from business originating in this state and going over the trunk lines of the A. T. & T. company."

"But the trunk line business is not in issue," returned Hoxsey, still flabbergasted.

Hunt Chipley, general council of the company, came to his assistance.

"If you are going to insist on these figures," said Mr. Chipley, striving to get the commissioner on another subject, "then we think that you should inquire also into the earnings of the independent concerns in North Carolina." James H. Pou, local counsel did not move. Mr. Chipley directed attention to the short and long haul passenger traffic over the roads as a parallel case.

Mr. Maxwell preferred to take the railroads and express companies as independent servants. One handles the traffic on the cars and the other moves it. The relations of the two are analogous to the relations between the Bell and the American Telephone and Telegraph company, he insisted.

The monkeywrench had landed with full force. The case appeared so nearly won even the opposition counsel admitted that they were up

Dillon County Happenings.

Fork

Mrs. Will Rose of Columbia is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Calhoun.

Mrs. Carrie Lewis is spending a few days at Fair Bluff, N. C. with relatives.

Miss Dessie Hayes and Mr. Major Coleman of Free State were the guests of Mrs. Ruby Fort Carmichael Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Atkinson and children of Southern Pines, N. C., spent the week end here with relatives.

Mrs. J. R. McDowell and baby of Dublin, N. C., have returned home after visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. F. McNeil.

A meeting of the Fork School Improvement Association was held at the school building Friday afternoon, April 8th. The following program was rendered:

Song—"America."
Bible Reading.
Current Events—Mrs. Frank Rogers.

Reading—Miss Sarah Taylor.
One Viewpoint of the Association—Miss Bertie Carmichael.

Business Sessions.
Social Hour—Refreshments consisting of ice cream and cake were served.

Mr. Elsie Keith of Cameron, N. C., spent the week end here.

MINTURN

Jackson-Dibble.

A wedding of unusual interest in this section was that of Miss Lucille Jackson to Mr. Andrew C. Dibble of Orangeburg, Saturday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. A small party of friends and relatives gathered at the home of Mr. Alex Jackson to witness the happy event. The home was tastefully decorated with potted plants, ferns, white and pink roses and lighted candles in groups gave a pleasing nuptial appearance to the scene. The bride, dressed in a lovely suit of blue tulle with accessories to match, entered on the arm of the groom and they were united in marriage by the Rev. Dibble of Spartanburg, a brother of the groom, assisted by the Rev. Murphy of Clio.

White and pink block cream and cake was served by Misses Effie Evans, Agnes and Harriet Jackson.

The little souvenirs were miniature likenesses of the bride, painted by herself.

Shortly after the ceremony the happy couple, showered with rice and good wishes, left for a short trip. They will be at home to their friends at Orangeburg, S. C.

Quite a number of the ladies of the community attended the County Federation of Women's Clubs at Dillon Saturday.

Miss Annie Taylor of Darlington is visiting Mrs. W. W. Evans.

Miss Minnie Usher spent the week end with Miss May Reece Hamer in Clio.

Mr. McCallum McSwain, a student of the University of South Carolina is spending a few days with Mrs. C. McLaurin.

Miss Kate Evans returned Tuesday from Columbia, where she has been attending the State Christian Endeavor Convention.

Miss Mary Edwards entertained a number of her friends Friday evening with several games of rook. Delicious candy was served by Miss Julia Edwards.

VOL HORN PASSES.

Vol Horn died at a Lumberton hospital on the 7th and was buried at the Horn burying ground near Fairmont, on the day following. Mr. Horn had been a sufferer from cancer of the stomach since last fall and he went to the hospital about the middle of February, but the disease had progressed so far that medical skill could not help him. Ten years ago Mr. Horn married Miss Effie Goff of Mt. Vernon, Ga., who with four children, survives him. Mr. Horn was a son of the late Jim Horn and was born near Lumberton in the year 1875 and was 46 years of age at the time of his death. His surviving brothers and sisters are: H. Horn, of Hamer; W. H. Horn of Floydale; Metco Horn, of Lumberton; and Nep Horn of Mississippi; Miss Emma Horn, of Gaddys Mills and Mrs. Julie Rowell, of Fairmont.

Against a hopeless fight until the attorneys and officers of the company felt compelled to "come through" to furnish the divisional figures to Mr. Maxwell, and they will go in the record before the commission takes the petition under advisement.

City Attorney Hindsdale, of Raleigh, was unable to budge Mr. Hoxsey when he attacked the figures submitted by the company to the corporation commission for tax assessment as contrasted with the figures submitted by the company for computing a fair return on the North Carolina investment. The supreme court has overruled Mr. Hindsdale here, but he did cloud the bright picture with some questions about the apportionment to the Bell of the eight million reserve set aside by the parent company this year.

Stories in metropolitan papers showing the nine per cent dividend fixed by the bigger company and the World editorial attacking the action of the commission of New York in permitting an interim increase created quite a bit of talk here.

CITIZENS DISCUSS PHONE RATES

General Manager Speir Tells Dillon Folk Why Rates Were Raised.

Two dozen or more citizens met Mr. Morgan B. Speir, general manager of the Southern Bell Telephone Co., at the court house Friday and heard him explain why the company found it necessary to raise rates. Mr. Speir went into a lengthy detailed statement of the company's affairs in an effort to convince those present that it was necessary to increase rates or go out of business, but there were many in the audience who were not convinced by Mr. Speir's arguments.

Dillon subscribers to the Southern Bell service are not protesting against the general raise in rates. That was ordered by the Railroad Commission and if the commission has the authority there is no appeal. But what the Dillon subscribers are standing on is a contract entered into in 1913 in which the Southern Bell agreed to furnish business and residence phones in Dillon at \$3.50 and \$2 respectively. The contract remains in force until 750 phones have been installed in the Dillon office, and up to the present writing only 325 have been installed.

In 1913 the company agreed to put in a modern system at Dillon, which they did. The subscribers agreed to pay a higher rate for this modern service, which they have been doing. Business phones in Dillon are \$3.50 and residence phones are \$2.00 whereas in other towns the rates are much lower. Each party to the contract has been carrying out its provisions to the letter, but now the telephone company says the government does not allow them to make discriminatory rates—that is one rate in one town and another rate in another—and so they refuse to stand by the contract and tell Dillon subscribers they must pay the increased rate as ordered by the Railroad Commission or have their phones cut out.

In his argument before the Dillon subscribers Mr. Speir dealt in generalities and every time the contract was mentioned he seemed to want to get away from it. He spoke at some length in which he reviewed the financial condition of the company, how much it was paying its employees and how much its operating expenses had increased in the last few years. The gentlemen who heard him do not question these statements, but regardless of how much money his company is making or is not making, or what it is doing in other towns and cities, all the Dillon subscribers want is for the company to stand by its contract made in 1913.

It was evident early in the meeting that Mr. Speir and the Dillon citizens would never get together. The Southern Bell is a large corporation and like all big corporations with many executive heads it has certain rules by which it does business and those rules are as inflexible as the rising and setting of the sun. They will not vary those rules to suit Dillon or any other town or city.

Mr. Speir holds that Dillon's contract is not valid. Dillon phone subscribers hold that it is, and the only way to adjust the matter is to take it into courts and let them pass upon it on its merits. If the contract is not valid, the Southern Bell may have to refund the over-plus it has charged Dillon subscribers for the last 10 years; if it is valid the company cannot raise its rates, regardless of what the Railroad Commission says or does. That is all there is to the controversy.

Jackson-Dibble.

Charming in simplicity but beautiful in every detail was the wedding of Miss Lucille Murchison Jackson and Andrew C. Dibble, Jr., solemnized at the home of the bride's father, Alexander Jackson, at 4:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

The ceremony room was banked with lovely spring offerings. An improvised altar was arranged with pedestals of ferns and ivy and huge baskets of white roses. The soft tint of a number of white candles lent a charm to the color scheme of green and white.

Promptly at 4:30 o'clock could be faintly heard the bridal chorus from Lohengrin. The bride entered with the bridegroom. She wore a beautiful suit of midnight blue with grey accessories. She wore a lovely bouquet of bride roses showered with sweet peas. The only ornament of the bride was a beautiful string of pearls, a gift of the groom.

An informal reception followed the ceremony, the guests assembling in the dining room, which was a mass of evergreens and pink carnations. The soft rays of a number of pink tapers spread a halo of light over the festive scene. Pink and white block cream were served. Only the families and a few of the near friends of the bride and bridegroom were present.

Immediately after the reception the happy couple left for a two weeks' wedding trip and upon their return will make their home in Orangeburg.

Blanket-like strips of asphalt of 25 to 50 feet in length and varying in thickness up to several feet have been cast up along several miles of the Quintana beach in Texas. The beach for a long distance has taken on the characteristics of a motor speedway.

Join the American Legion.

BIG WATERMELON CROP.

From 3,000 to 4,000 Cars Shipped Out of South Carolina Annually.

Many people living in South Carolina do not know the importance of watermelons as a commercial crop in this state, says F. L. Harkey, extension agent in marketing who has recently had many inquiries concerning such questions as the best commercial varieties, the shipping period, the number of melons required to make a car, etc. Figures from the office of the marketing agents show that 3,000 to 4,000 cars of watermelons are shipped out of the state annually, the majority of these being produced in Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton and Jasper counties. Indications are that the crop planted this year will be a large one.

The chief commercial varieties in South Carolina are the Excel and the Tom Watson. Shipments usually begin about July 1, and end about September 1. The 1920 shipping season was at its height from July 20 to July 30. On July 29, 1920, 300 cars were shipped.

When the South Carolina movement of watermelons is on sharp competition is to be expected from Georgia. Some shipments are also moving at that time from Alabama and North Carolina, and a few from Florida, though the Florida movement becomes comparatively unimportant after July 15.

The majority of melon shipments from South Carolina go to Eastern markets though many cars are sold in Southern territory throughout the shipping season, for almost every town of any size handles one or more cars of watermelons.

For the advance instruction of those planting watermelons commercially it might be said that watermelons are usually loaded in ventilated box cars 4 or 5 layers high depending on the size of the melons. When melons average 18 pounds, 1,300 to 1,450 are usually loaded in a car; when they average 25 pounds or more, 900 to 1,200 are usually loaded to a car. All cars should be clean and bedded with dry pine or train straw. Shavings or sawdust can be used if absolutely dry but are not the most desirable bedding.

HOME DEMONSTRATION DEPARTMENT.

(Conducted by Etta Sue Sellers.)

Making Bread in the Home.

The yeast plant is one of the smallest organisms in the plant kingdom, but it is of great value to the housekeeper in making bread. The yeast plant is a living thing. For anything to have life, it must grow, take food, and reproduce. One single tiny yeast plant is in the form of a tiny round cell. As it begins to grow, it expands and finally breaks into two parts. Each of these grows in the same way. To grow the cells must have starch and moisture. There must be a certain amount of heat to favor the growth of yeast. Too much heat will kill the yeast or cause it to grow too rapidly. We should have moderate heat when making light bread. When we go to the extreme and do not have enough heat, the yeast will not grow. Too much salt will kill yeast plants.

Liquid Yeast

Better results can be obtained in bread making with compressed yeast. Liquid yeast comes next to the compressed.

4 medium sized potatoes, washed and pared.
1 quart hot water.
1-4 cup sugar.
1 teaspoon salt.
1 cake compressed yeast or 1 can dry yeast soaked in 1-4 cup warm water.

Grate or grind the potatoes directly into the water. Boil about 5 minutes stirring constantly. Add the sugar and salt and let mixture cool. When lukewarm, add the yeast. Keep at ordinary room temperature for 24 hours when it will be ready for use. An earthen jar is a good container for it. This should keep fresh for about two weeks if placed in a cool, dark place. By adding meal to the liquid yeast, yeast cakes can be made.

Light Rolls

1 cup lukewarm liquid (equal parts) water and milk.
1 teaspoon salt.
1 or two tablespoons sugar.
2 tablespoons shortening.
1-4 to 1-2 cake compressed yeast, or 2 to 4 tablespoons liquid yeast.
3 to 4 cups sifted flour.

Place sugar, salt and lard in mixing bowl. Scald milk. Pour scalded milk and boiling water over sugar, salt and lard—leaving out enough of either the water or milk to dissolve the yeast cake. Place the yeast cake in lukewarm water or milk left out and stir until it dissolves. Add dissolved yeast to other ingredients in mixing bowl when the mixture is lukewarm. Add just enough flour at first to make a batter. Beat all the lumps out. This beating causes the yeast to begin growing more quickly. Then add rest of flour. Knead until smooth and elastic, or until it blisters, cracks, and pops. Place again in the mixing bowl and let rise at a moderate temperature until double in bulk. Knead slightly again and shape into balls about the size of an egg for plain rolls. Place close together or somewhat apart, depending on whether a soft or crusty roll is desired. Let rise until treble in bulk and bake in a hot oven.
If liquid yeast is used, cut down

"Dillon's Newsboy."

Fair Bluff, N. C.,
April 12 1920.

Dear Herald:—
This old town is putting on a new dress since the stock law came into effect. The Baptist parson with a few willing hands and the town truck changed the look of things very much. Only a few dogs and two disconsolate old rangers, bereft of their mates by reckless auto drivers now run at large. But a remarkable thing among the chicken family is that since our female citizens have been enfranchised and are exercising their right to take a hand in politics and vote for whom they please, every old hen that hatches out a brood of young chicks is putting the old roosters to shame by their crowing in rather a peculiar manner. Possibly since the women have succeeded in securing equal political rights with their husbands, the hens are getting on to the suffragist idea and want the roosters to scratch for the little chicks.

The Lumber River Distilling Company have shut down their plant near the corporate limits. A few smellers-out of stump rum distilleries saved them the trouble of changing the site of their operations. However, their patrons will not have long to hang and thirst for this snake antidote—others are near by.

A good deal has been written in regard to men that rose from poverty to affluence and then stripped of it all by the machinations of a few men superior in intellect and the tricks of trade to the comebacks that's left hopeless and forlorn, buffeted by the "devil and the dark blue sea," yet in Dillon can be found a living example of the truth, that a man can rehabilitate himself and do a man's part in the battle for bread. A picturesque figure of a man is Dillon's newsboy, now with whitening locks but the step of a youth and eyes bright as the sunlight and face wreathed with a glow of perfect happiness and as he trudges along the streets with his bundle of newspapers under his arms, a smile and a kind word for all. He is making a great success of his occupation and as he expressed it, "Now trustworthy and truthful in all his dealings."

Happy, thrice happy is Allen Surles, Dillon's efficient newsboy. Life now stands out in rainbow colors. Even the little sparrows sing a new song to Allen and the feeling of independence and being a bread winner makes him hold his head high. His job, some of America's most famous men, commenced life's struggle for existence as humble newsboys. An honorable occupation, a distributor of thoughts and ideas of great writers among the masses. Persuading men, boys, women and girls to read and learn of the great problems of life and every step he takes in his vocation helps in the great effort to elevate the human race to higher ideals that tend to train and christianize the whole world.

And after Dillon has become a great city and its history shall chronicle its growth from infancy, making mention of those who whose labors were for the betterment of its citizens, and not for the accumulation of more money. And when the shout of the newsboys along the streets, scores and scores of them heard then, Allen Surles will be remembered. A marble shaft will grace the public park and the name "Allen Surles" the first newsboy of Dillon, will be engraved thereon by the boys, yet unborn that will sell newspapers to an enlightened people. A come back! Yes, indeed. Look at the man, watch how intent he is on his job and be convinced that he is a sure enough come back.

Elihu Malrow.

Commission Form Wins.

At the last session of the general assembly an act was passed authorizing the city council to order an election on the question of abolishing the Public Works Commission. At the special election held Tuesday a total of 64 votes was cast, 33 of which were in favor of retaining the commission and 23 were cast against it. The present commission is composed of C. L. Wheeler, O. M. Page and L. C. Braddy, Jr. Mr. Wheeler is the hold-over commissioner and Messrs. Page and Braddy were elected in the last primary.

NOTICE.

There will be a regular meeting of Dillon Lodge No. 54, K. of P., on Thursday night, April 14th, Rank of Knight conferred.

C. S. Herring, C. C.

The Hatfield-McCoy feud that raged for nearly thirty years in the Kentucky-West Virginia mountains and resulted in twenty-six known deaths and an untold number of "disappearances" started in an argument over the ownership of two razorback hogs.

on the amount of liquid used.

The above recipe may be used for plain loaf bread, using only 1-2 table spoon of sugar and 1-2 tablespoon of shortening.

A loaf of bread should not brown until the last 15 minutes. Bake in a moderate oven. If using an oil stove, light the oven and place the bread in the oven a few minutes after words.

DEATH OF MRS. N. H. SPRUNT.

Mrs. Nicholas H. Sprunt died at her home in Dillon on one o'clock Saturday morning, after a long illness and although her death was not unexpected, the loss of the sweet gentle friend, as she was to all, is keenly felt by her scores of friends here and elsewhere, who will ever cherish her memory. Her many little acts of kindness will always be remembered and it was at this time of year when her roses were blooming that she cheered many a friend with a bouquet from her garden.

Mrs. Valeria Rankin Sprunt was the daughter of Capt. Robert G. and Susan Athalia Rankin of Wilmington, N. C., and was born February 3rd, 1856. After her marriage to Mr. N. H. Sprunt of Kenansville, N. C., they lived in Wilmington a number of years, moving to Dillon about 20 years ago.

Surviving her are her devoted husband, one daughter, Mrs. Frank Niernsee, a son John Sprunt, one brother, N. B. Rankin, of Wilmington, two nieces, Mrs. W. L. Bunting and Mrs. Ella May Rankin, of Wilmington; three sisters-in-law, Mrs. J. E. Matthews, Mrs. J. T. Rankin, of Wilmington, Mrs. Margaret Roddick, of Latta; a nephew, R. T. Rankin, of Wilmington; and three grand children, Eleanor, Frank and Louise Niernsee of Dillon.

The remains were carried to Wilmington, N. C., on Saturday and interred in the Rankin plot at Oak Dale Cemetery that afternoon.

Floydale.

Mrs. A. B. McElvey of Maxton, N. C., is spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. J. L. McLaurin.

Miss Lucille Mills of Kinross has charge of the book work for the Floyd Co.

Mrs. H. L. Calhoun and children spent Friday in Clio with her father, who celebrated his eighty first birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. K. B. Hodges and Herbert Hodges, Jr., spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stackhouse.

Several from Floydale attended field day at Marion Friday. Those going were Rev. P. H. Crosby and family, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McDonald, Mr. Murray Hayes and Ben Stackhouse.

Mrs. Mack of Temperance Hill School and Miss Brickle of Spring Branch School spent the week end with Mrs. J. L. McLaurin.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Percy McDonald and Janet Stackhouse visited Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Fairly at Rains Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Stackhouse spent Friday in Clio and ate dinner with Mr. A. B. Bryant who celebrated his eight first birthday. Among those present were Rev. and Mrs. Merritt of M. E. Church, Rowland, N. C., Rev. and Mrs. Kirk of Baptist church of Clio. There was about 50 present and a bountiful dinner was spread.

Miss Mamie Bryant has returned to Lake View where she is working for the Floyd Co. in their new store just opened there.

MORE LATA NEWS.

The fact of a whiskey still having been captured by the sheriff on Monday near Oak Grove, is noted in another item from this place, but at the same time that the sheriff was looking for the still which he found, his deputies were arresting and rounding up the parties who indulged too freely no doubt on the monkey rum which this same still had been turning out. On last Saturday night several living in and near Oak Grove became inebriated, fired pistols and acted disorderly generally. Those arrested and brought before Magistrate Allen were tried and fines laid on each as follows: Stephen Hayes \$25; Truss Baxley \$25; Raz Gilbert \$25; and Carl Porter, the young man charged with operating the still, was committed to jail, not being able to give a bond for \$300 to appear at the June term of court. All the others came across with the cash for their respective fines. No doubt our little sister town will appreciate the quietness which will naturally follow in the wake of the sheriff's activities.

S. Pope spent Tuesday in Fayetteville.

Mrs. S. Pope is in Florence with her daughter, Mrs. Gordon Wells, who has been sick for several days.

F. M. Haselden of Mallory was here Tuesday.

R. T. Burney of Chadbourne, N. C., was here Tuesday.

Jas. L. Dew, of Temperance was here Tuesday.

After having the misfortune of getting their residence burned on Sunday afternoon, Mr. R. A. Proctor's family is living here temporarily with Mrs. Proctor's sister, Mrs. H. C. Finklea.

W. B. Stackhouse of Little Rock was here Tuesday.

C. P. Wells of Bennettsville was here Tuesday.

G. S. Roberts of Zion was here Tuesday.

Miss Cora Roberts of Zion is spending some time with her aunt, Mrs. E. C. Allen.

B. M. DuBose of Brownsville was here Tuesday.

James Rogers of Free State was here Tuesday.

W. M. Rogers of Temperance was here Tuesday.